

Dear Harold,
 Dear the Dallas Police
 Retain these materials.
 Sincerely,
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When I first read this—I was still in Dallas at the time—I rubbed my eyes to make sure I wasn't dreaming: "... an early suspect ... still in jail ... arrested minutes after the assassination!" No mistake. There it was, black on white, in the local afternoon paper. The story continued:

"The suspect was unarmed when arrested but booked, along with others, arrested in the hectic hours following the assassination, on charges of 'investigation of conspiracy to commit murder.' The investigative charges were dropped Monday morning but the man was held in jail on 'city charges.'"

Who was this mystery prisoner in the Dallas city jail and why had he been arrested minutes after Kennedy's assassination? I knew I'd never get this information from official sources, for by that time a severe news blackout had been clamped on the entire city (except for the regular output of fancy stories about Oswald, still going strong).

But maybe I'd have some luck by scanning the earlier editions of the same paper? I did—and found the story I was looking for in the first edition of the *Dallas Times Herald* to hit the street after the assassination. Buried as it is amidst a mass of other details concerning the shooting and the confusion that followed, it is a remarkably precise and revealing story:

"Patrolman W. E. Barker saw workers in the Texas School Book Depository peering out a window from the third floor and pointing to a man wearing horn-rimmed glasses, a plaid coat and rain coat. The officer immediately arrested the man for questioning and placed him in a room of witnesses in Sheriff Bill Decker's office across the street from the Depository."

"With the young man protesting, the crowd all along the way jeered at him as he was escorted across the street. One woman said to the man: 'I hope you die.' Another screamed hysterically, 'Is that him? Is that him?' An unidentified photographer shot a picture of the arrested man and then said bitterly, 'I hope you burn.' Officers on the case would not explain what connection the man might have with the shooting nor would they identify him."

So here we have a young man who was identified by eye-witnesses as a possible killer and who was arrested on the spot, while Oswald was still at large—and that same person was still in jail three weeks later! Furthermore, the "investigative charges," i.e., those filed against him on the day of the assassination for "conspiracy to commit murder," were not dropped until Monday, Dec. 2—ten days after Oswald had been "convicted" by the police of being the one and only killer of President Kennedy! Such are the strange ways of Dallas justice.

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proclaims on its front page: "Police issued a pick-up order for an unknown white male, about 30, slender, 5-10, 165 pounds, armed with a .30 caliber rifle." (italics added)

The *Blade* story says the call went out to find "Lee Oswald—about 24, 5 feet 8, 150 pounds, pallid, dark-haired."

It looks, then, as if there were two pick-up calls: one at 12:36 which was vague, without a name, and mentioned a rifle; the other sometime later which was specific, mentioned Oswald, described him accurately and did not mention a rifle ... presumably because the rifle had been discovered on the sixth floor. Striking confirmation of this suggestion was to be found in the *Dallas Morning News* the next morning, Saturday the 23rd. There we read of the encounter between Oswald, the policeman, and manager Truly and then the story goes on: "The policeman and Truly continued their search. Oswald later failed to report for a 1:15 P.M. roll call of employees. Truly reported this to police." (italics added)

This account jibes with the *Blade* story and Captain Ganaway's statement, and it is reasonable to assume that there were two pick-up calls: one at 12:36 and one around 1:15-1:20. The later one was based on a roll call: the earlier one on the existence of other suspects!

The existence, from the beginning, of suspects other than Oswald is something of which most Americans are unaware. The other suspects were mentioned in early news stories and then dropped completely, even though the police kept at least one of them in custody for weeks afterward. It is a rather fantastic facet of the Oswald case and it vividly illuminates the ambivalence of the American press. On one hand alert, hard-working, honest reporters dug out all kind of facts in the finest tradition of their profession; on the other the news desks lamely accepted at face value the official interpretations, first of the Dallas authorities and then the FBI. This subservience to the Establishment becomes complicity in such publications as *Time* and *Life*, as we shall shortly prove. But the honesty and hard work of American reporters cannot be too highly praised. Without them this book could not have been done. In a true sense, they have exposed the cover-up.

A case in point is the *Dallas Times Herald* of Dec. 8, 1963. Toward the end of an otherwise uninteresting routine news story about Ruby, that paper reported: "It was also learned Saturday that an early suspect in the assassination of President Kennedy was still in jail—but no longer as a suspect in the killing. The man, a 31-year-old man who gave a Knight Street address, was arrested minutes after the assassination when officers swarmed railroad yards near the assassination scene. A man was reported seen in that area carrying a rifle..."

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